WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) issued the statement below following the announcement by the Bureau of Labor Statistics today that the economy added 290,000 jobs in April:

"This is very encouraging news. A year ago the economy was shedding nearly 700,000 jobs per month, but today's number, as well as other positive economic indicators such as growth in our GDP, show that our economy is getting back on the right track. The economy added nearly 300,000 jobs in April, representing the largest single monthly growth in more than four years. But our work is not done. While these numbers are cause for optimism about our country's economic course, too many North Floridians are still struggling to find a good job and provide for their families. I will continue fighting to bring new local jobs to our area, provide essential tax relief to families and small businesses, and keep our economic recovery moving forward.

"In North Florida, our optimism about the positive job growth is unfortunately clouded by the uncertainty stemming from the oil spill, which has many in our communities rightfully concerned. Efforts are underway to address the environmental and economical fallout from the Gulf oil spill, and I am working to ensure that those responsible for damaging our environment and endangering our local economies are held fully accountable for their actions."

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